

FLEUR DU LAC ESTATES

FALL 2018

GIVING THANKS A glorious morning at FDLE

Thanksgiving morning at Fleur du Lac dawned in spectacular glory with a fresh dusting of snow. The choking smoke from the Camp Fire dissipated and the fresh sparkling patina was accentuated by a vaporous mist sitting atop our glistening lake. The brilliant contrast of dazzling white and dark gray clouds accentuated the blue above. Rippled sky early morning sunlight danced lightly across the water, setting off the shimmering magic of the scene, perfectly set for Thanksgiving Day!



Vastly different from the Fall we witnessed last year, the temperatures have been chilly enough at night for the ski areas to get a start on their man-made snowpack. Many were ecstatic to be able to open for the Thanksgiving Holiday, with Squaw/Alpine opening on Nov. 16th, and Homewood Mountain Resort opening on Friday Dec. 7th.

Ahead of Thanksgiving, town was bustling with many people here to escape the thick acrid smoke from the Camp Fire in Paradise. Fortunately, the rain quenched much of the burn allowing firefighters to gain the upper hand. Just as quickly as they arrived, the Thanksgiving crowds dispersed, only to be replaced by those eager to get out on the slopes. We hope this will be an improvement for the local economy over last year, and we certainly hope the early snow bodes well for a more "normal" winter season. We'll be keeping our gloved fingers crossed!

BABY BEAR'S VISIT



We had a visit in early October from one of our local furry friends. The Landscaping and maintenance about ten minutes trying to scare this little fellow off. He finally got smart and headed up this tree he where rested comfortably for many There hours. were other visits, and each time our team went active into "Bear Scare" mode, chasing and hollering in an effort to make it crystal clear that this is not "home."

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Our Newest Homeowners in Unit #21: Gary and Barbara West!

Gary and Barbara West have five children and eleven grandchildren. You will surely see many of their extended family enjoying Fleur du Lac throughout the year. They look forward to relaxing at their new vacation home with friends and family.



Born in Modesto, Gary is a third generation family member in an agricultural and propane distribution company started in 1909 by his grandfather, James Stewart West. Before that, Mr. West had been a practicing Judge in Oklahoma City. James purchased a small warehouse in Modesto at that time where they began selling grain and hay in the summer and heating oil and coal in the winter. The building is still a part of their company today. Their current operations include feed for chickens and hens, and they distribute eggs throughout California, Nevada and Hawaii. Their other business endeavor is propane distribution from seven plants located between Fresno and Colfax, primarily in the California foothills where fuel is used heating homes and businesses. Gary is Chairman of the Board and his son, Michael, is now President.

Over the many years in business, they have operated many stores and sold a wide variety of commodities, from propane-fueled appliances to furniture, a hardware and lumber operation, turkey breeding and an ice plant, to tire stores and car dealerships. One of the car dealerships happened to be a Kaiser-Frazer dealership which Henry Kaiser had started in the 1940's! Gary even had the good fortune to meet and talk with Henry Kaiser while staying in Hawaii in the summer after his graduation from USC, as the house they were renting was across the street from Mr. Kaiser's!

Barbara Bowman West grew up in Orinda, California and enjoyed teaching and paper sales for Conifer Paper Products. Her grandfather owned a home on the South Shore of Lake Tahoe where she spent many summers growing up. Gary first came to the lake when he was twelve years old to stay in a cabin his parents had rented in Emerald Bay. Over the 30 years they have been married, they have spent some time every year either renting a house or staying with friends in the Tahoe area. When they learned that a unit at Fleur du Lac had come available on the market, they came for the weekend and met their delightful realtor Patty Turner who showed them the property, and they fell in love with it. Gary stated, "When I walked into our unit, I immediately felt this was the Tahoe I wanted to share with our family."

Please be sure to keep an eye out for the newest additions to our Fleur du Lac community and introduce yourselves!



Vaiser Manhattan Comes to Fleur du Lac!

Look what showed up for Michelle Baggett's birthday last September!

Most of us associate the name "Henry J. Kaiser" with his industrial endeavors in the building of dams, shipbuilding, steel, concrete, roads and even healthcare. But you may be surprised to learn that for about 10 years Henry Kaiser ventured into automobile production, and we are fortunate to have one such vehicle here on the property!

As World War II was winding down, Kaiser knew the public would be eager to once again be able to purchase cars. He had long dreamed of producing an inexpensive front wheel drive model that anyone could afford. For an incredible bargain, he was able to lease the Willow Run plant that had been owned and used by Ford Motor Company to build B-24 Liberator Bombers for the war effort. The uphill struggle began not only to re-tool the plant, but also to retrain the many shipbuilding employees who came from his shipyards on how to build automobiles, and to somehow house them all as well. Steel was still hard to come by as most was used to produce the machinery of war, and the big three automakers already had struck purchase agreements for most of what was left. Nonetheless, the Kaiser-Frazer partnership was underway by August 1945. Their foray into the auto industry burst onto the scene in extravagant style in an auto show in January of 1946 featuring two of their new models; the Kaiser and the Frazer. The event, held in the Waldorf Astoria in New York was attended by some 40,000 excited people despite the bitterly cold conditions.

By Sept. 25, 1947 they celebrated the production of 100,000 cars produced at the Willow Run Plant, and less than six months later, car number 200,000 rolled off the line. This time it was a Kaiser Manhattan, one of the more expensive models. It wasn't long before they would celebrate the arrival of the 1949 model Kaiser. Although his dream of an inexpensive front wheel drive car never came to fruition, Kaiser and his partners brought forth many new innovative features, and stylish designs that at first the public clamored over. Eventually however, they were thought to be overpriced, and sales began to dwindle. Lack of adequate funding and missed opportunities in the sale of stock also slowed progress, and the company eventually sold the Willow Run facility to General Motors after theirs had burned down. Kaiser Industries decided to move away from the production of domestic vehicles, purchasing Willys Overland Jeep and went into the production of military and utility vehicles which would become Kaiser Jeep Corporation in 1963. Eventually they decided to leave the auto industry altogether selling it to American Motors in 1970.

Thanks to Robin and Michelle Baggett for the use of their books detailing the life of Henry J. Kaiser: Foster, Mark S., Henry J Kaiser Builder in the Modern American West (1989) Austin: University of Texas Press, pp.142-164Heiner, Albert P., Henry J. Kaiser American Empire Builder an Insider's View (1981): New York. Peter Lang Publishing, pp. 215-259.

PROJECT UPDATES!





DOMESTIC

PLUMBING

This fall we completed Phase II of the domestic plumbing which included Units 5 – 8. Ed Platt worked very closely with Flowrite to assure that the project was executed successfully. We now own the boring tool to accomplish much of this work. This will allow us to save money going forward by using more locally sourced vendors to complete the next phases.

The water clarity is much improved in Units 1 – 8 as a result of replacing underground steel with plastic pipes. We have established a schedule to continue work on the remaining domestic water lines over the next four years, to be done in phases. Corresponding paving will be done concurrently to minimize the disruption to homeowners.



COVERAGE STUDY

Good News! The TRPA has approved the coverage plan as submitted. The initial plan provides for the removal of the access road to the south of the office. In Step Two, the Board will identify the most suitable location for the new service road to best serve the needs of the property, at which point we will submit an amendment to TRPA before considering the plan final.

POOL AND SPA

The re-plastering of the pool and the wader has been completed and they look great! A new cover has been installed on the pool for the winter months, and it is a vast improvement over the previous one. Next spring, we will be replacing some of the grab rails at the pool and the spa, and the spa is scheduled to get a new cover and be re-plumbed and re-plastered as well.

ROOFING

The roofing at Units 5 and 6 are fully completed and Units and 20 are nearing completion as of the writing of this newsletter. Lebel Roofing estimates about one more day of work when the parts arrive for the latter building to be fully completed. There remains only a small amount of downspout work to be completed at unit # 19 when the remodel work there is finished. The Board and staff have been very impressed with Lebel Roofing throughout their two years of work here and look forward to having them complete the remaining roofs on the property.

NEW YEAR'S DAY COMMUNITY EVENT?

Board President Paula Boldt thought it might be fun to have a potluck family gathering on New Year's Day. If you are interested in participating, please call her directly at (512) 785-6144.

Board of Directors

President: Paula Boldt

Vice President: Woody Shackleton

Treasurer: Stewart Koch

Director and ACC Chair: Bob Zerbst Director and Secretary: Doug Allred

Contact Information

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Lane Murray: lanem.fdle@yahoo.com

K.T.: officeasst.fdle@yahoo.com Ed Platt: edp.fdle@yahoo.com

Fleur du Lac Staff

General Manager: Lane Murray Maintenance Supervisor: Ed Platt

Maintenance Foreman: Wayne Brackett
Administrative Assistant: Kathy Taylor (K.T.)
Landscape Supervisor: Marty Devanna

Security/ Maintenance Staff:

TJ Sheehan – Swing Shift

Pete Mondschein – Day Shift

Jeff Cleeland – Weekend Swing Shift

NEW Employee: Gary Sterle-Fill in part time

Fall/Winter Babysitters:

First Baptist Church Tahoe City Babysitting list ~ subject to change

Available until December 21

Raven Francois 405-452-0820

Jecca Simerly 423-736-7089

Trina Aiken 919-599-3877

Heather McCathern 615-289-1039

Hannah Matthews 205-370-7043

Dixon Darling 334-322-7443

Krissy Stutts 601-606-0429

Possibly available with advance notice

Bethany Hansen 864-360-7493

Haley Griffin 770-815-8785

Jayme Blanton 626-535-3549

Available after January 2

Heather McCathern 615-289-1039

Dixon Darling 334-322-7443

Bethany Hansen 864-360-7493

Haley Griffin 770-815-8785

For fun things to do in the area this time of year, visit

http://www.gotahoenorth.com/events